

31 January 2005

Re: Proceeding: 04-440, Verizon

Dear Sirs:

As one whose Internet connection is via a local Internet Service Provider — one of the "little guys" — I wish to add my comments about what appears to be an effort to drive the local ISPs out of business.

While my connection is at present a 28.8K "dial-up", there is a possibility of DSL being provided in this location in the near future. Because I would prefer to do business with local companies rather than with megacorps to whom I am just an account number, I would want the DSL connection provided by my ISP.

Verizon already puts stumbling blocks in the way of the local providers. If this petition is granted, it will open the door to pricing the local ISPs out of the DSL market, or simply denying them broadband access to the Verizon system.

There was a time when this sort of thing was called monopolizing.

The heart and soul of free enterprise is competition. Government approval of the crushing of competition is unacceptable. I therefore respectfully request that this petition be denied. Thank you for your time and attention. God bless!

Sincerely yours,

Robert P. Renaud  
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